



STAFF PHOTO BY SUZANNE STONE

GOING GREEN: Architect Martin Buckley, owner Joanie Schisler and contractor J.D. Cooper show off Schisler's eco-friendly 1,020-square-foot guest house in Windsor.

Building team in Windsor completes green guest house

BY SUZANNE R. STONE
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WINDSOR — Joanie Schisler's building team completed work on her low environmental impact guest house, and she is now in residence.

Schisler moved into the one-bedroom, 1,020-square-foot house in early July and put the green heating, ventilation and air conditioning system to the test during the hottest part of a long summer of 100-degree days.

Schisler said her energy bills have been \$80 a month and attributed half of that amount to an outdoor irrigation system.

"I've hardly had to turn on the HVAC," she said. "It's a flowing, open plan, and the corrugated metal skin reflects the heat off the house. Working around the outside of the house, it's about 127 degrees, and inside, it's a comfortable 76, 77 degrees."

Architect Martin Buckley said the design was created with maximizing the air flow and making the building work with the site on which it sits.

"There was considerable thought and effort that went into the siting and organization of the building, turning it the right way on the lot so the glass is for most part sheltered to the south," he said. "The exterior walls being reflective metal

and having an airspace behind them open at the top and bottom allows ventilation between the building itself and the screen wall or rain wall, which basically keeps the building dry but allows moisture and excess heat to be removed by air moving up behind the metal panels. Convection basically takes care of that portion of it."

General contractor J.D. Cooper said the foam insulation makes a difference in the building's heat management, as well.

"All the energy-efficient building materials used in this building are available or more readily available than they have been in the past few years, but Martin's and Joanie's approach to the application and insulation is unique; I've never seen it done quite like this before, particularly with the insulation of the foundation," he said.

"The insulation is a high-density foam — very energy efficient — and it also adds additional structural strength to the building. It adds rigidity to everything; you could probably place this building in a hurricane zone and not have any concerns whatsoever. A slab structure such as this, if not insulated at least 24 to 30 inches below the surface, will transfer exterior temperatures into the slab and, therefore, affecting the temperatures in

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JOANIE SCHISLER

— finished building a 1,020-square-foot low environmental impact guest house

the room to some dramatic swings. With the insulation techniques here, we're now benefiting from the heat sink of the Earth as opposed to the elements that affect temperature swings," he said.

Schisler said her priorities in the project were to create a flowing, open floor plan design, having as low an impact on the site as possible

and using the building materials with as little waste and debris as possible.

"We didn't use any fill dirt; we just used what we had here, and the way Martin sited it, it's just tucked into the woods. J.D.'s guys were very sensitive to reusing any wood that we could and also working with the whole idea of doing something different, not going typically down the road we always have and being wasteful," she said.

Schisler said her original plan was to live in the guest house for a few months to work out the kinks, then begin preparations for building a main house on the property.

"Right now, I'm going to take it easy," she said. "Martin and I have worked on several projects before, and we always have to have a little breathing room afterward. It's been so comfortable to live in; I'm not sure I want to venture into a bigger square footage. It's easy to clean. I think the project works because we had the willingness from J.D. to work with the project, and Martin coming up with some really innovative ideas. Everybody came in understanding what we needed to do, which was make this totally energy efficient."

Suzanne Stone is a general assignment reporter at the Aiken Standard.

School nurse to instruct students at career center

BY ROB NOVIT
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For 14 years, with the past seven at North Aiken Elementary School, school nurse Teresa Hayden applied Band-Aids to hundreds of children and also strived to help them feel safe and secure.

Now, she's taking on a different kind of opportunity as the new health science instructor at the Aiken County Career Center.

Hayden is by nature enthusiastic and outgoing. Her mentor for the next year will be cosmetology instructor Trina Greenwood. Hardly shy and retiring herself, Greenwood has laughingly told colleagues that she could barely get a word in during a recent conversation.

When the position became open last spring, Hayden was wary at first. She contacted family members and friends who are educators, and they encouraged her to pursue the job.

"It began to sound really exciting," she said. "I realized I could be responsible for encouraging and motivating a high school student to become a nurse, a pharmacist or a doctor — that I could make a difference in a child's life."

Hayden will teach Health Science I and II for juniors and seniors from five high schools, as well as a new exploratory class for sophomores. She'll join instructor Mike Miller, who teaches an emergency medical services class.

Career Center Director Brooks Smith was previously the principal at Aiken Middle School, about 100 yards from North Aiken Elementary. Hayden also served the middle school as needed.

"We have a strong health science program and wanted to move forward with it," Smith said. "Teresa has vast experience, and she will bring her knowledge and PowerSchool and data management tools. She developed a strong rapport with fourth and fifth-graders in classroom lessons. We know she will do a great job."

A native of Abbeville, Hayden and her husband Dean have two teenage children. She received an associate degree in nursing from USC Aiken in 1992 and, while in school and afterward, worked in a variety of positions at Aiken Regional Medical Centers.

Hayden then joined children's rehabilitation ser-



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

A NEW CAREER: Teresa Hayden, the Aiken County Career Center's new health science instructor, joins EMS teacher Mike Miller with the program's simulated ambulance, recently purchased with federal funds.

vices with the Aiken County Health Department, serving as a case manager for 60 to 80 children with special needs. She worked with children and young adults ages 0 to 21 and advocated for their parents.

"It was a holistic kind of nursing care, looking at families' needs from the perspective of a public health nurse," Hayden said. "I discovered that this is where I should be, interacting with children and families."

Her work often took her into the schools, where she developed an interest in the roles of school nurses. In 1997, Hayden accepted that position at Douglas Elementary School in Edgefield County. She joined the North Aiken staff in 2003, where she did classroom lessons, helped coordinate a neighborhood "Walk to School" project and put out a yearbook.

"I wanted to be part of the whole process," Hayden said. "A lot of the students had socioeconomic, educational and physical needs. You can't meet the needs of one without the others."

When she meets her new students Monday, she is going to promise them a lot of hands-on learning and that she'll look for new collaborations with other staff members and such institutions as Aiken Technical College.

"I've got high energy," Hayden said with a smile. "I'm going to draw a giant heart in the middle of the floor and go through the circulatory system with my students."

Essay contest returns for 3rd year

BY ROB NOVIT
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Meredith Walker was just 3 years old when her father started taking her on short hikes in Hitchcock Woods, which was accessible from their backyard.

He would point out different plants and animals and give his daughter short biology lessons that evolved into meaningful discussions as Walker grew older.

For a Hitchcock Woods Foundation essay competition in 2009, Walker wrote: "Our talks and time spent together in the woods developed within me not only an exceptional bond with my father but also a curious mind bent on questioning anything and everything that could be discussed from Whitney Drive to Cathedral Aisle and back again."

Walker, then an Aiken High senior, won the contest and

See the 2009 and 2010 winning essays online at www.aikenstandard.com.

\$500 in the first year of the Celestine Eustis Prize. Another AHS senior, Mary Taylor Miller, captured first place in 2010.

The foundation is again sponsoring the essay competition, with entries accepted by Sept. 6, said Foundation Director Doug Rabold.

Celestine Eustis was the aunt of Louise Eustis and adopted the orphaned child in 1877. Louise later married prominent horseman and trainer Thomas Hitchcock Sr.

Celestine Eustis purchased land in Aiken's pine forests more than a century ago, and her efforts helped ensure that future generations would enjoy what later became Hitchcock Woods. The essay

contest was created to honor Eustis' legacy and her passion for the woods.

Candidates for the essay contest must have contributed time to the preservation of Aiken traditions or values in support of Hitchcock Woods. Applicants must also be younger than 21 and may apply individually or through a third-party nomination. An entire class may apply, as well.

Essays may be handwritten or typed and may be sent with photos or artwork by the Sept. 6 deadline to Hitchcock Woods Foundation, P.O. Box 1702, Aiken, SC 29802.

The essay winner will be announced at the Festival of the Woods on Sept. 23 and 24. The winner's name will be engraved on a sterling silver trophy.

For more information, call 642-0528.

Contact Rob Novit at 644-2391.

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